

[~116H3493]



(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to establish a United States Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. PHILLIPS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to establish a United States Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Arctic Diplomacy Act  
5 of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

8 (1) the rapidly changing Arctic environment—

1 (A) creates new national and regional secu-  
2 rity challenges due to increased military activity  
3 in the Arctic;

4 (B) heightens the risk of the Arctic emerg-  
5 ing as a major theater of conflict in ongoing  
6 strategic competition;

7 (C) threatens maritime safety due to inad-  
8 equate regional resource capacity to patrol the  
9 increase in vessel traffic this remote region is  
10 experiencing from the growing expanses of open  
11 Arctic water from diminished annual levels of  
12 sea ice;

13 (D) impacts public safety due to increased  
14 human activity in the Arctic region where  
15 search and rescue capacity remains very lim-  
16 ited; and

17 (E) threatens the health of the Arctic's  
18 fragile and historically pristine environment and  
19 the unique and highly sensitive species found in  
20 the Arctic's marine and terrestrial ecosystems;  
21 and

22 (2) the United States should reduce the con-  
23 sequences outlined in paragraph (1) by—

1 (A) carefully evaluating a wide variety and  
2 dynamic set of security and safety risks unfold-  
3 ing in the Arctic;

4 (B) developing policies and making prep-  
5 arations for mitigating and responding to  
6 threats and risks in the Arctic, including by  
7 continuing to work with allies and partners in  
8 the Arctic region to deter potential aggressive  
9 activities and build Arctic competencies;

10 (C) adequately funding the National Earth  
11 System Prediction Capability to substantively  
12 improve weather, ocean, and ice predictions on  
13 time scales necessary for ensuring regional se-  
14 curity and trans-Arctic shipping;

15 (D) investing in resources, including a sig-  
16 nificantly expanded icebreaker fleet, to ensure  
17 that the United States has adequate capacity to  
18 prevent and respond to security threats in the  
19 Arctic region; and

20 (E) pursuing diplomatic engagements with  
21 all Arctic countries to reach an agreement for—

22 (i) maintaining peace and stability in  
23 the Arctic region;

1 (ii) fostering cooperation on steward-  
2 ship and safety initiatives in the Arctic re-  
3 gion;

4 (iii) promoting environmentally sus-  
5 tainable natural resource management and  
6 economic development;

7 (iv) ensuring safe and efficient man-  
8 agement of commercial maritime traffic in  
9 the Arctic;

10 (v) reducing black carbon and meth-  
11 ane emissions in the Arctic region, includ-  
12 ing by working with observers of the Arctic  
13 Council, including India and China, to  
14 adopt mitigation plans consistent with the  
15 findings and recommendations of the Arc-  
16 tic Council's Framework for Action on  
17 Black Carbon and Methane; and

18 (vi) countering China's Polar Silk  
19 Road initiative.

20 **SEC. 3. UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR ARC-**  
21 **TIC AFFAIRS.**

22 Title I of the State Department Basic Authorities Act  
23 of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a et seq.) is amended by adding  
24 at the end the following new section:

1   **“SEC. 64. UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR**  
2                   **ARCTIC AFFAIRS.**

3           “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within  
4 the Department of State an Ambassador at Large for Arc-  
5 tic Affairs (referred to in this section as the ‘Ambas-  
6 sador’), appointed in accordance with subsection (b).

7           “(b) APPOINTMENT.—The Ambassador shall be ap-  
8 pointed by the President, by and with the advice and con-  
9 sent of the Senate.

10          “(c) DUTIES.—The Ambassador shall—

11               “(1) facilitate the development and coordination  
12 of United States foreign policy in the Arctic region  
13 relating to—

14                   “(A) meeting national security needs;

15                   “(B) protecting the Arctic environment  
16 and conserving its biological resources;

17                   “(C) promoting environmentally sustain-  
18 able natural resource management and eco-  
19 nomic development;

20                   “(D) strengthening institutions for co-  
21 operation among Arctic countries;

22                   “(E) involving Arctic indigenous people in  
23 decisions that affect them;

24                   “(F) enhancing scientific monitoring and  
25 research on local, regional, and global environ-  
26 mental issues; and

1                   “(G) reducing black carbon and methane  
2                   emissions in the Arctic region;

3                   “(2) coordinate the diplomatic objectives, and,  
4                   as appropriate, represent the United States within  
5                   multilateral fora that address international coopera-  
6                   tion and foreign policy matters in the Arctic region;

7                   “(3) help inform, in coordination with the Bu-  
8                   reau of Economic and Business Affairs,  
9                   transnational commerce and commercial maritime  
10                  transit in the Arctic region;

11                  “(4) coordinate the integration of scientific data  
12                  on the current and projected effects of climate  
13                  change in the Arctic region and ensure that such  
14                  data is applied to the development of security strate-  
15                  gies for the Arctic region;

16                  “(5) make available the methods and ap-  
17                  proaches on the integration of climate science to  
18                  other regional security planning programs in the De-  
19                  partment of State to better ensure that broader deci-  
20                  sion-making processes may more adequately account  
21                  for the effects of climate change;

22                  “(6) serve as a key point of contact for other  
23                  Federal agencies, including the Department of De-  
24                  fense, the Department of the Interior, the Depart-

1       ment of Homeland Security, and the intelligence  
2       community, on Arctic region security issues;

3           “(7) serve as the Chair of the Arctic Council  
4       when the United States holds the Chairmanship of  
5       the Arctic Council; and

6           “(8) perform such other duties and exercise  
7       such powers as the President and Secretary of State  
8       shall prescribe.

9       “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10           “(1) ARCTIC COUNTRIES.—The term ‘Arctic  
11       countries’ means the eight countries with territory  
12       or exclusive economic zones that extend north of the  
13       66.56083 parallel latitude north of the equator.

14           “(2) ARCTIC REGION.—The term ‘Arctic region’  
15       means the geographic region north of the 66.56083  
16       parallel latitude north of the equator.

17           “(3) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term  
18       ‘intelligence community’ has the meaning given such  
19       term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of  
20       1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).”.

21   **SEC. 4. ARCTIC REGION SECURITY POLICY.**

22       The Secretary of State, acting through the Amba-  
23       sador at Large for Arctic Affairs of the Department of  
24       State under section 64 of the State Department Basic Au-  
25       thorities Act of 1956 (established pursuant to section 3),

1 shall establish an Arctic Region Security Policy. Such pol-  
2 icy shall assess, develop, budget for, and implement plans,  
3 policies, and actions relating to—

4 (1) bolstering the diplomatic presence of the  
5 United States in Arctic countries, including through  
6 enhancements to diplomatic missions and facilities,  
7 participation in regional and bilateral dialogues re-  
8 lated to Arctic security, and coordination of United  
9 States initiatives and assistance programs across  
10 agencies to protect the national security of the  
11 United States and its allies and partners;

12 (2) enhancing the resilience capacities of Arctic  
13 countries to the effects of environmental change and  
14 increased civilian and military activity by Arctic  
15 countries and other countries that may result from  
16 increased accessibility of the Arctic region;

17 (3) assessing specific added risks to the Arctic  
18 region and Arctic countries that—

19 (A) are vulnerable to the changing Arctic  
20 environment; and

21 (B) are strategically significant to the  
22 United States;

23 (4) coordinating the integration of environ-  
24 mental change and national security risk and vulner-

1 ability assessments into the decision making process  
2 on foreign assistance awards with Greenland;

3 (5) advancing principles of good governance by  
4 encouraging and cooperating with Arctic states on  
5 collaborative approaches to—

6 (A) responsibly manage natural resources  
7 in the Arctic region;

8 (B) share the burden of ensuring maritime  
9 safety in the Arctic region;

10 (C) prevent the escalation of security ten-  
11 sions by mitigating against the militarization of  
12 the Arctic region;

13 (D) develop mutually agreed upon multilat-  
14 eral policies among Arctic countries on the  
15 management of maritime transit routes through  
16 the Arctic region and work cooperatively on the  
17 transit policies for access to and transit in the  
18 Arctic region by non-Arctic countries; and

19 (E) facilitate the development of Arctic Re-  
20 gion Security Action Plans to ensure stability  
21 and public safety in disaster situations in a hu-  
22 mane and responsible fashion;

23 (6) evaluating the vulnerability, security, surviv-  
24 ability, and resiliency of United States interests and  
25 non-defense assets in the Arctic region; and

1           (7) reducing black carbon and methane emis-  
2       sions in the Arctic region.

3 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

4       In this Act:

5           (1) ARCTIC COUNTRIES.—The term “Arctic  
6       countries” means the eight countries with territory  
7       or exclusive economic zones that extend north of the  
8       66.56083 parallel latitude north of the equator.

9           (2) ARCTIC REGION.—The term “Arctic region”  
10      means the geographic region north of the 66.56083  
11      parallel latitude north of the equator.